



**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
San Bernardino Police Department**



Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT)

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**ATF AND SAN BERNARDINO POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNOUNCE SUCCESSES OF THE
VIOLENT CRIME IMPACT TEAM INITIATIVE**

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), United States Attorney Thomas P. O'Brien and Michael Billdt, Chief of Police, San Bernardino Police Department (SBPD), are pleased to report the successful initiative to combat violent crime in San Bernardino through the ATF led Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT).

In fiscal year 2008, which began October 1, 2007, the San Bernardino VCIT has made a total of 62 arrests. In addition, in the month of November, 2007, the San Bernardino VCIT recovered a total of 19 firearms from the community. These statistics place the San Bernardino VCIT in the top three out of the 27 other VCIT initiatives operating throughout the country.

Most of the other VCIT programs have been operating for a number of years, and the success of the 6 month old San Bernardino VCIT can be directly attributed to the coordinated efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement, the United States Attorney's Office, the San Bernardino's County District Attorney's Office, community leaders and the residents of San Bernardino.

SAC Torres stated: "The positive results that we are seeing will result in the reduction of violent crimes and will have a lasting effect in making the community safer. ATF is committed to continuing our collaboration with our many law enforcement and community partners."

The goal of the San Bernardino VCIT is to save lives by getting the "worst of the worst" armed criminals off the streets by aggressive enforcement and prosecution efforts.

Chief Michael Billdt is pleased with the efforts of the VCIT group stating "the key to any successful community policing model is effective collaboration between police agencies and all community stakeholders".

United States Attorney Thomas P. O'Brien states, "We are committed to help make San Bernardino safer through a coordinated campaign to investigate and prosecute those individuals who threaten our communities with guns and violence.

Information on ATF and its programs can be found at www.atf.gov. Visit www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us for more information on the San Bernardino Police Department.